

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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P R 130707Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8252

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5350

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KKS

SUBJECT: MRS KIM TAE-CHUNG APPEALS TO PM MIKI FOR RESTORATION
OF HER HUSBAND'S STATUS AS EXILE

1. PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES JULY 10 CARRIED AP SEOUL
DATELINED STORY HEADED "REOPENS DIPLOMATIC WOULD
MRS. KIM MAKES APPEAL TO MIKI." THRUST OF STORY IS
THAT MRS. KIM TAE-CHUNG SENT LETTER JULY 8 TO PM MIKI
ASKING HIS HELP TO RESTORE HER HUSBAND'S
"ORIGINAL STATUS" AS AN EXILE BEFORE HIS ABDUCTION
FROM TOKYO IN 1973.

2. IN HER LETTER, MRS. KIM REPORTEDLY CONTENTED THAT
HER HUSBAND WAS DEPRIVED OF HIS BASIC LIBERTIES AND
RIGHTS AS A RESULT OF HIS ABDUCTION TO KOREA AND THAT
UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, KIM'S STATUS AS AN EXILE
SHOULD HAVE BEEN RESTORED TO PROTECT HIS BASIC
RIGHTS. MRS. KIM IS REPORTED AS SAYING IN HER LETTER
THAT THE IRRESPONSIBLE WAY OF SETTLING THE CASE
FAILED TO RESPECT KIM'S RIGHTS.

3. AP STORY ALSO REPORTED THAT IN HER LETTER, MRS. KIM
STATED THAT HER HUSBAND'S ILLNESS (AN ARTHRITIC CONDITION)

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HAS BECOME WORSE SINCE HIS IMPRISONMENT BECAUSE FULL

MEDICAL TREATMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE.

4. KIM TAE-CHUNG'S PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY HAN HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND CONCERNING MRS. KIM'S APPEAL TO PM MIKI. ACCORDING TO HAN, MRS. KIM IS WORRIED ABOUT HEALTH OF HER HUSBAND AND OUTCOME OF MYONGDONG TRIAL AND SINCE SHE BELIEVES THERE IS NOTHING THAT SHE CAN DO FOR HIM IN KOREA, SHE DECIDED TO REMIND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OF ITS MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS HER HUSBAND. THUS, SHE DRAFTED THE LETTER TO PM MIKI.

5. ON JULY 7, HAN SAID HE TOOK LETTER TO JAPANESE EMBASSY WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY A FIRST SECRETARY. HE REVEALED CONTENTS OF LETTER TO THIS OFFICER AND ASKED HIM TO TRANSMIT IT TO TOKYO. THE FIRST SECRETARY REFUSED TO ACCEPT LETTER ON GROUNDS THAT HE MUST CONSULT WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND ASKED HAN TO RETURN THE NEXT DAY. WHEN HAN RETURNED ON JULY 8, THE LETTER WAS ACCEPTED AND HAN WAS INFORMED THAT IT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO PM MIKI.

6. FOLLOING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LETTER, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA CALLED IN JAPANESE PRESS ORPS IN SEOUL AND REPORTED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT AND TRANSMIT THE LETTER. AP GOT THE STORY FROM JAPANESE REPORTERS.

7. HAN TOLD EMBOFF JULY 11 THAT MRS. KIM HAD NOT RECEIVED AS YET ANY REPLY TO HER LETTER TO PM MIKI.

8. COMMENT: MRS. KIM'S LETTER TO PM MIKI APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER TACTICAL SALLY ON HER PART IN THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO KEEP THE SPOTLIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION FOCUSED ON THE TRIAL OF KIM TAE-CHUNG AND THE OTHER MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS. AS WIVES OF DEFENDANTS HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, THEY BELIEVE THAT ONLY PRESSURE OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION CAN SAVE THE DEFENDANTS FROM SEVERE PUNISHMENT. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THIS, LEGAL TONE OF MRS. KIM'S LETTER AND STATEMENT THAT KIM'S ABDUCTION VIOLATED HIS RIGHTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW MAY REFLECT ADVICE MRS. KIM IS RECEIVING FROM SERIES OF YOUNG U.S. LAWYERS FROM TOKYO
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WHO ARE ATTENDING TRIAL SESSIONS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF U.S. WE DO KNOW THAT THESE LAWYERS MEET REGULARLY WITH MRS. KIM AND U.S. MISSIONARIES WHO ARE CLOE TO HER. CONCERNING KIM TAE-CHUNG'S HEALTH, HIS ARTHRITIS CONDITION IS A LONGSTANDING ONE AND PRISON LIFE HAS NOT HELPED. HOWEVER, HE HAS ATTENDED TRIAL SESSIONS AND AT LAST SESSION REMAINED UNTIL SIX PM WHEN HE ASKED TO

BE RETURNED TO PRISON. SENIOR EMBASSY KOREAN ANALYST WHO
ATTENDED SESSION REPORTS THAT KIM LOOKED DRAWN AND TIRED.
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